AS & A level Music Technology – Component 3 assessment update

We're always looking for ways to make our assessments fair, accessible and meaningful for every student. As part of that commitment, we've recently reviewed the Component 3 exam papers for AS and A level Music Technology.

What we looked at — and what we learned

Over the past few exam series, we made changes to the structure of some questions. The aim was to improve accessibility while keeping the right level of challenge.

After careful review, and listening closely to feedback from centres, it's clear these changes didn't have the impact we intended.

What's changing

From June 2026 onwards, we'll return to the original question format and structure used in the Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs). This approach will apply to:

- the June 2026 question paper
- all future exam series.

We believe this gives students the clarity and consistency they need to show what they really know and can do.

Please take a look at the SAMs below:

A Level SAMs

AS Level SAMs

To help you prepare with confidence, we've created two support packs — one for AS and one for A level. Each pack includes:

- clear guidance on what's changed
- updated examiner commentaries
- links to the 2023–2025 exam papers, showing how the changes were applied
- revised past papers, giving you a complete and consistent set of materials for mock exams.

You can download the updated materials via the links below:

AS support pack	A Level support pack
AS Exam papers	A Level Exam papers

We're here to help

If you have any questions, our Subject Advisor, Jeffery Hole, is ready to support you. You can get in touch with Jeffery by emailing teachingmusic@pearson.com. You can also contact us through our customer support portal at any time.